Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 891
Senate Judiciary Committee
March 6, 2023

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee:

My name is Lois Anderson and I am the Executive Director of Oregon Right to Life. **I am writing to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 891.**

Over the years, our organization has helped thousands of pro-life advocates express their concerns with Oregon's first-in-the-nation physician-assisted suicide law. As this law has been copied and pasted across this country, we've sounded the refrain that it is not only dangerous but a slippery slope leading to where we find ourselves today.

Senate Bill 891 reveals that the long revered "Death with Dignity Act" is a living document and not a law that was ever meant to preserve long standing patient protections. SB 891 radically rolls back what limited safeguards the voter-approved law provided for vulnerable Oregonians.

From the beginning, this law created a systemic financial incentive to end life rather than preserve it. Especially vulnerable are people with disabilities, with chronic but treatable conditions and those with mental health conditions such as clinical depression or anxiety.

In addition:

- The Oregon Legislature is under no legal obligation to comply with the settlement in *Gideonse v. Brown* by removing the residency requirement. It is not required by the U.S. or Oregon Constitutions, Oregon law, or any court.
- SB 891 pushes even more health care providers from the role of healers to recommending and assisting in the ending of life.
- Oregon has a mental health crisis. Removing the limited safeguards that are in place will make it even easier for a vulnerable Oregonian in crisis to end their life in a matter of hours.

Senate Bill 891 will lead to more deaths, faster, even for people outside of Oregon. It further endangers people with disabilities and mental health conditions. For these reasons, we ask that you oppose SB 891.

Sincerely,

Lois Anderson
Executive Director
Oregon Right to Life